

POCD/Vision Survey Questions

1. Community Character

1. Do you think that Salem has a distinctive community character?

Scale: Yes No Don't Know/No Opinion

2. If you think that Salem has a distinctive community character, then what do you believe contributes to it?

Scale: Does Not Contribute.... to... Greatly Contributes, Not Applicable

- Its rural characteristics
- Its sense of community
- The volunteerism of its citizens
- The participation of its citizens in town affairs
- Its history

3. Does Salem give you a sense of community?

Scale: Not at All ... to... Very Much So, Don't Know/No Opinion

4. If Salem does not give you a sense of community, what would give you one?

[Freeform responses]

5. How important to you is Salem's agricultural character?

Scale: Not at all Important... to... Extremely Important, Don't Know/No Opinion

6. If you believe that Salem's agricultural character is important, then which of the following should be part of it?

Scale: Not at all Necessary... to... Extremely Necessary, Don't Know/No Opinion, Not Applicable

- Working family farms
 - Plants (e.g., grapes, corn, fruit and vegetables)
 - Animals for food and food products (e.g., cows, chickens)
- Working commercial farms
 - Plants (e.g., grapes, corn, fruit and vegetables)
 - Animals for food and food products (e.g., cows, chickens)
- Local agricultural related businesses (e.g., **Grain stores, tack shops, veterinarians, blacksmiths**)
- Availability of local fruits and vegetables in Salem
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)*
- Old barns
- Pastures
- Other (please describe)

*This model is loosely defined as a private farm that sells shares of the year's produce to its participants.

7. If you believe Salem should maintain its agricultural character, then what would be acceptable to you?

Scale: Not at all Acceptable... to ... Very Acceptable, Don't Know/No Opinion, Not Applicable

Note: POCD Committee is still working on the wording for the trade-offs below

- Pay higher taxes to "subsidize" agriculture
- Limit the land available for housing and business development (e.g., by not permitting development in prime farm land areas)

5. Is it important that Salem have a “green” (**environmentally friendly**) focus?

Scale: Not at all Important... to... Extremely Important, Don't Know/No Opinion

6. If you believe that Salem should have a “green” focus then which of the following is necessary:

Scale: Not at all Necessary... to... Extremely Necessary, Not Applicable, Don't Know/No Opinion

- Recycling
- Renewable energy sources
- Energy efficient houses and businesses

7. If you think that Salem should have a “green” focus then what would be acceptable to you?

Scale: Not at all Acceptable.... to.... Very Acceptable, Not Applicable, Don't Know/No Opinion

- Seeing solar panels on houses
- Seeing wind turbines
- More and free recycling stations
- More energy saving requirements on new houses
- Community Composting
- Restrictions on pesticides and other chemical fertilizers

8. What other type of community character should Salem cultivate?

[Freeform responses]

2. Village Center

Note: Insert a brief description of the village center initiative here, as people will have different ideas about what this means.

1. How important is it to you to have a village center in Salem?

Scale: Not At All Important... to... Extremely Important, Don't Know/No Opinion

2. If you think that a Village Center is important, then which of the following should be a part of it?

Scale: Not at all Necessary....to.... Extremely Necessary, Don't Know/No Opinion, Not Applicable

- Retail shops
- Restaurant/café
- Coffee House
- Public Wi-fi
- Central meeting place
- Kiosk/bulletin board to advertise community events
- Pedestrian friendly environment (e.g., lamp-lit paths)
- Benches to sit on
- Pleasant place to go
- Village Center look and feel
- Housing integrated with commercial use
- Architectural landscaping (gardens, fountains)
- Farmers Market
- Outdoor pavilion (e.g., for concerts)
- Professional offices (e.g., accounting, real estate)
- Other (please describe)

3. If you think Salem should create a Village Center, then how acceptable would each of the following be to you?

Scale: Not At All Acceptable... to ...Very Acceptable, Don't Know/No Opinion, Not Applicable

- Adopt Village Center District regulations, similar to what some other towns have done to preserve the New England village character (e.g., restrict permitted uses within Village Center).
- Change a designated area from residential to allow selective business activity not currently permitted
- Adopt building appearance design standards to preserve the New England village character within the Village Center

3. Government/Infrastructure/Facilities/Services

Note: Insert a brief description of Salem's form of government here

1 How satisfied are you with Salem's current form of government?

Scale: Not At All Satisfied... to ... Very Satisfied, Don't Know/No Opinion

2 If you are not satisfied, why not, and what would you propose as an alternative form to best suit Salem's needs?

[Freeform responses]

3. How important are the following services?

Scale: Not at all important...to... Very Important, Don't Know/No Opinion

- Library
- Elementary School
- Middle School
- High School
- Road conditions (**excluding Rte 354, 82, 85**)
- Snow removal (**excluding Rte 354, 82, 85**)
- Transfer station
- Ambulance Services
- Fire Services
- Police Services
- Town Hall - Facility
- Town Hall - Services (**e.g., Town clerk, Assessor, ZEO, Building Inspector**)
- Youth Services excluding Recreation
- Senior Services
- Health Services
- Visiting Nurse

4. How satisfied are you with the quality of these services?

Scale: Not at all Satisfied... to... Extremely Satisfied, No Opinion, Not Enough

Knowledge/Experience to Answer

Note: It is assumed that those who do not use the services will answer: "Not Enough Knowledge/Experience to Answer", thereby giving an idea as to their use.

- Library
- Elementary school
- Middle School
- High School
- Road conditions (**excluding Rte 354, 82, 85**)
- Snow removal (**excluding Rte 354, 82, 85**)
- Transfer station
- Ambulance Services
- Fire Services
- Police Services
- Town Hall - Facility
- Town Hall - Services (**e.g., Town clerk, Assessor, ZEO, Building Inspector**)
- Youth Services excluding Recreation
- Senior Services
- Health Services

- Visiting Nurse

5. Below are infrastructure elements, facilities and services that Salem does not have. How high a priority would you give to each of them?

Scale: Do Not Need ... to... High Priority, Don't Know/No Opinion

- Community Center
- Senior Center
- Free wireless network
- Public transportation
- Town Sewer
- Town Water
- Garbage collection
- Paid full fire service
- **Paid full ambulance service**

6. Which of the above items that you indicated as “High Priority” would you be willing to provide and maintain by increasing the town budget?

Scale: Yes No Not Applicable (not a high priority item)

- Community Center
- Senior Center
- Free wireless network
- Public transportation
- Town Sewer
- Town water
- Garbage collection
- Paid full fire service
- **Paid full ambulance service**

4. Recreation

1. How high a priority would you give to each of the following?

Scale: Do Not Need ... to... High Priority, Don't Know/No Opinion

- **Bike/pedestrian multi-user trails that connect different parts of town**
- **Town park(s) with picnic facilities**
- **Pavilion for resident use only**
- **Adult oriented spots or activities**
 - **Volleyball**
 - **Bocce**
 - **Horseshoes**
 - **Organized board or card games**
 - **Yoga**
 - **Exercise programs**
 - **Other (please define)**
- **Additional athletic fields/courts (if so, please indicate for which sports)**

2. Which groups would you like to see have more recreational opportunities?

Scale: Do Not Need ... to... High Priority, Don't Know/No Opinion

- **Pre-k**
- **k-13**
- **14-21**
- **21-40**
- **40-60**
- **60 and over**

5. Regionalism

1. Do you think it is important for Salem to partner, cooperate or enter into binding agreements with our regional neighbors to maintain or improve our:

Scale: Not at all Important... to... Extremely Important, Don't Know/No Opinion

- Library and its services*
- Open spaces*
- Recreation opportunities (**e.g. Gardiner Lake Authority**)*
- High School*
- Sports participation opportunities*
- Elementary school education services
- Middle school education services
- Public work services
- Police protection services
- Fire protection services
- Public transportation
- Opportunity to broaden our exposure to greater diversity
- Ability to provide services or opportunities we cannot current provide alone

[

Elements designated with an asterisk (*) are currently part of a regional solution

2. If the town could save money by partnering, cooperating or entering into a binding agreement with our regional neighbors, **would you agree to it?** [Select all that apply]

- **Yes, depending** on the amount of money saved
- **Yes, depending** on how much control we have to share
- No, never
- Don't know/no opinion

6. Finance and Education

Note: Add a preface here describing the 3 components of Salem's budget.

- 1. What would be acceptable to you regarding the General Government Budget?**
 - Increase services by increasing the budget
 - Reduce services by reducing the budget
 - Maintain services by maintaining the budget
- 2. What would be acceptable to you regarding the Capital Expenditures Budget**
 - Increase services by increasing the budget
 - Reduce services by reducing the budget
 - Maintain services by maintaining the budget
- 3. How satisfied are you with the quality of the following components of Salem's public education?**

Scale: Not at all Satisfied... to... Extremely Satisfied, No Opinion, Not Enough Experience/Knowledge to Answer

 - Elementary School
 - Middle School
 - High School
- 4. What would be acceptable to you regarding the Elementary School?**
 - Increase the quality of education by increasing the education budget
 - Reduce the quality of education by reducing the education budget
 - Maintain the quality of education by maintaining the education budget
- 5. What would be acceptable to you regarding the Middle School?**
 - Increase the quality of education by increasing the education budget
 - Reduce the quality of education by reducing the education budget
 - Maintain the quality of education by maintaining the education budget
- 6. What would be acceptable to you regarding the High School?**
 - Increase the quality of education by increasing the education budget
 - Reduce the quality of education by reducing the education budget
 - Maintain the quality of education by maintaining the education budget

7. Economic Development

Note: In "preface" state that Salem gets 6% of tax revenue from business vs CT State avg of 15% to provide context

1. How satisfied are you with Salem's current level of economic development [need to define ED in collaboration with EDC]? [Use standard scale.]

2. How important to you is it that we encourage economic development **consistent with Salem's community character.**

Scale: Not at all Important... to... Extremely Important, Don't Know/No Opinion

3. If you believe that economic development is important, then which of the following should be encouraged?

Scale: Not at all Encouraged....to.... Strongly Encouraged, Don't Know/No Opinion, Not Applicable

- Small corporate headquarters
- Green energy manufacturer (e.g., solar panels)
- Other green businesses
- Education or Training Facilities
- Winery/Vineyards
- Other vegetables/fruit/plant farms
- Healthcare/Wellness/Yoga
- Destination specialty retail/services
- Plant and Gardening Retail
- Small to medium-sized shopping village with cafes
- Drugstore
- **Light Industry/manufacturing**
- **Heavy Industry/Manufacturing**
- **Warehousing and Distribution Center**
- Other (Free form explanation)

4. If you believe Salem should not encourage Economic Development, what would be acceptable to you?

Scale: Not at all Acceptable... to ...Very Acceptable, Don't Know/No Opinion, Not Applicable

- Allow my taxes to increase at the rate required to support the town, since there will be few new businesses to bring in additional commercial tax revenue
- Limit the Town to services that taxes currently pay for (realizing the majority of our taxes cover education, which we have limited ability to reduce)
- Continue to drive longer distances for products and services not available in Salem
- Pursue other methods of raising revenue for the town (free-form elaboration)
- Other (Free-form response)

5. If you believe Salem should encourage economic development, what would be acceptable to you?

Scale: Not at all Acceptable... to ...Very Acceptable, Don't Know/No Opinion, Not Applicable

- **Provide tax incentives to attract businesses**
- **Reduce regulations around topics such as signage, outside lighting, and protecting natural resources (e.g., water quality)**
- **Invest in public water**
- **Invest in public sewer**
- **Invest in public transportation**
- **Other (Free-form response)**

8. Housing

Sec. 8-39a of the State Statutes defines "Affordable housing" as "housing for which persons and families pay thirty per cent or less of their annual income, where such income is less than or equal to the area median income for the municipality in which such housing is located, as determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development." Typically, affordable housing includes multi-family, mixed use, mixed income and low and moderate-income housing.

1. How important is it to you to increase housing choice and economic diversity in housing (multi-family, mixed-use, mixed income and low and moderate-income housing)

Scale: Not at all important... to... Very Important, Don't Know/No Opinion

2. How would you rate the following?

Scale: Too Much.... Not Enough, No Opinion, Not Enough Experience/Knowledge to Answer

- Salem's existing affordable housing **supply** or options
- Salem's efforts to increase/promote housing choice and economic diversity in housing (multi-family, mixed-use, mixed income and low and moderate-income housing)

3. If you think that it is important to increase housing choice and economic diversity in housing, then how much should each of the following be encouraged?

Scale: Not at all encouraged... to... Strongly encouraged, Don't Know/No Opinion, Not Applicable

- Multi-family dwellings
- Single-family attached townhouses
- Single family detached housing
- Mobile homes
- Affordable housing
- Age restricted housing
- Senior housing
- Housing integrated with commercial activities
- Clustered housing/conservation design

4. If you think it is important to increase housing choice and economic diversity in housing, would you be willing to:

Scale: Strongly Agree...to... Strongly Disagree, Don't Know/No Opinion, Not Applicable

- Modify existing zoning regulations for housing in designated areas (e.g., reduce 1,000 sq ft minimum size, reduce 2 acre minimum lot size)
- **Allow Salem's character to change** (currently, Salem has predominantly single family homes on 2-acre minimum lots)
- **Allow Salem's demographic make-up to become more diverse**

9. Historic and Archeological Resources

Note: POCD Committee is still working on the elements to include in the questions below.

1. How would you rate Salem's efforts to protect the following?

Scale: Too Much...to... Not Enough, No Opinion, Not Enough Knowledge/Experience to Answer

- Old houses
- Old barns
- Other buildings on the State and National Historic Register
- Ancient cemeteries/burial grounds
- Scenic roads
- Visible stone walls (e.g., along roads)
- Hidden stone walls (e.g., in the woods)

2. How important is it to preserve Salem's archaeological and historic resources?

Scale: Not At All Important.... to.... Extremely Important, Don't Know/No Opinion

- Old houses
- Old barns
- Other buildings on the State and National Historic Register
- Ancient cemeteries/burial grounds
- Scenic roads
- Visible stone walls (e.g., along roads)
- Hidden stone walls (e.g., in the woods)

3. If you believe Salem should preserve its historic and archeological resources, then what would be acceptable to you?

Scale: Not At All Acceptable... to... Very Acceptable, Don't Know/No Opinion, Not Applicable

- Restrict what people can do on their property in order to protect historic and archeological resources
- Limit the land available for development (housing, business) if the proposed development would destroy/damage a historic or archeological monument
- Restrict road construction/maintenance if the work would destroy/damage a historic or archeological monument
- Pay additional taxes to educate residents about Salem's historic and archeological resources

10. Natural Resources

1. How would you rate Salem's efforts to protect the following?

Scale: Too Much...to... Not Enough, No Opinion, Not Enough Knowledge/Experience to Answer

- Water resources (e.g., Watercourses, Wetlands, Vernal pools, Aquifers, Groundwater and well water, Public water supplies, Lake resources, Stream/Wetlands buffers)
- Plants/Animals (e.g., Natural communities; Habitats; wildlife and migratory corridors; Grasslands; Native plants and animals; Large, unfragmented forest blocks; Tree canopies, Ancient trees)
- Soil/Land (e.g., Prime agricultural soils, special rock formations, Mineral resources, Unique land forms)
- Visual/Recreational assets (e.g., Natural landscapes, Vistas/viewsheds; Tree lines, Ridgelines, Night sky (absence of pollution), Open Spaces, Greenways, Preservation areas, Forestry)

2. How important is it to preserve Salem's natural resources?

Scale: Not At All Important... to... Extremely Important, Don't Know/No Opinion

- Water resources (e.g., Watercourses, Wetlands, Vernal pools, Aquifers, Groundwater and well water, Public water supplies, Lake resources, Stream/Wetlands buffers)
- Plants/Animals (e.g., Natural communities; Habitats; wildlife and migratory corridors; Grasslands; Native plants and animals; Large, unfragmented forest blocks; Tree canopies, Ancient trees)
- Soil/Land (e.g., Prime agricultural soils, special rock formations, Mineral resources, Unique land forms)
- Visual/Recreational assets (e.g., Natural landscapes, Vistas/viewsheds; Tree lines, Ridgelines, Night sky (absence of pollution), Open Spaces, Greenways, Preservation areas, Forestry)

3. If you believe Salem should preserve its natural resources, then what would be acceptable to you?

Scale: Not at all Acceptable... to ...Very Acceptable, Don't Know/No Opinion, Not Applicable

- Increase zoning regulations to protect important natural resources during the site planning and subdivision process
- Limit the land available for development (e.g., by setting aside land for open spaces and/or restricting the permitted uses)
- Have the town purchase land to protect important natural resources

Additional General questions:

To beginning of survey, add general questions about (need wordsmithing, but this is the concept):

1. Why did you move to Salem (loved the house, school system, rural character, etc.)?
2. Do you plan to leave Salem in the future?
 - a. If yes:
 - i. When (after kids graduate)
 - ii. Why (Taxes are increasing faster than in other towns?)
 - iii. Why (Not enough local shopping or other conveniences?)
 - iv. Other
 - b. If no:
 - i. Sense of community
 - ii. Xxx
 - iii. Xxx
 - iv. Other

Add general question at the end of the survey: Is there anything you'd like to add that has not been covered?

Add demographic questions, for example:

1. How long have you lived in Salem
2. How old are you